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Early Goldwater Letter Urged Casey to Set Up Blind Trust

By George Lardner Jr.
Washington Post Staff Writer

Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) urged CIA Director William J. Casey to bring "a halt to the same old routine" of congressional hand-wringing about his investments and to put his holdings in a blind trust about a year before Casey finally did so.

"You and I aren't exactly children anymore," Goldwater told Casey in a July 12, 1982, letter made public as the result of a lawsuit under the Freedom of Information Act. "Our lives have been pretty well spent, and although we both look forward to many more years, as the saying goes, 'You can't take it with you,' so why don't you put it in a blind trust?"

Goldwater, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, wrote the letter after reading reports of Casey's 1982 decision to set up a CIA screening system to identify po-

tential conflicts between Casey's duties and his holdings.

Foreseeing headaches, Goldwater warned that any time the monitoring group at the CIA said anything, "someone on the Intelligence Committee is going to demand a hearing which I am going to have to grant and you are going to have to be subjected to the same old routine" of questioning about financial dealings.

The screening arrangement apparently was undercut last year by reaction to Casey's 1982 annual report. It showed that millions of dollars in stocks and securities had been bought and sold for Casey during the summer of 1982 as the stock market was beginning a major advance. Capitol Hill inquiries promptly followed, much as Goldwater predicted. Casey announced last July that he was putting his holdings in a blind trust, which was put into effect Oct. 7.